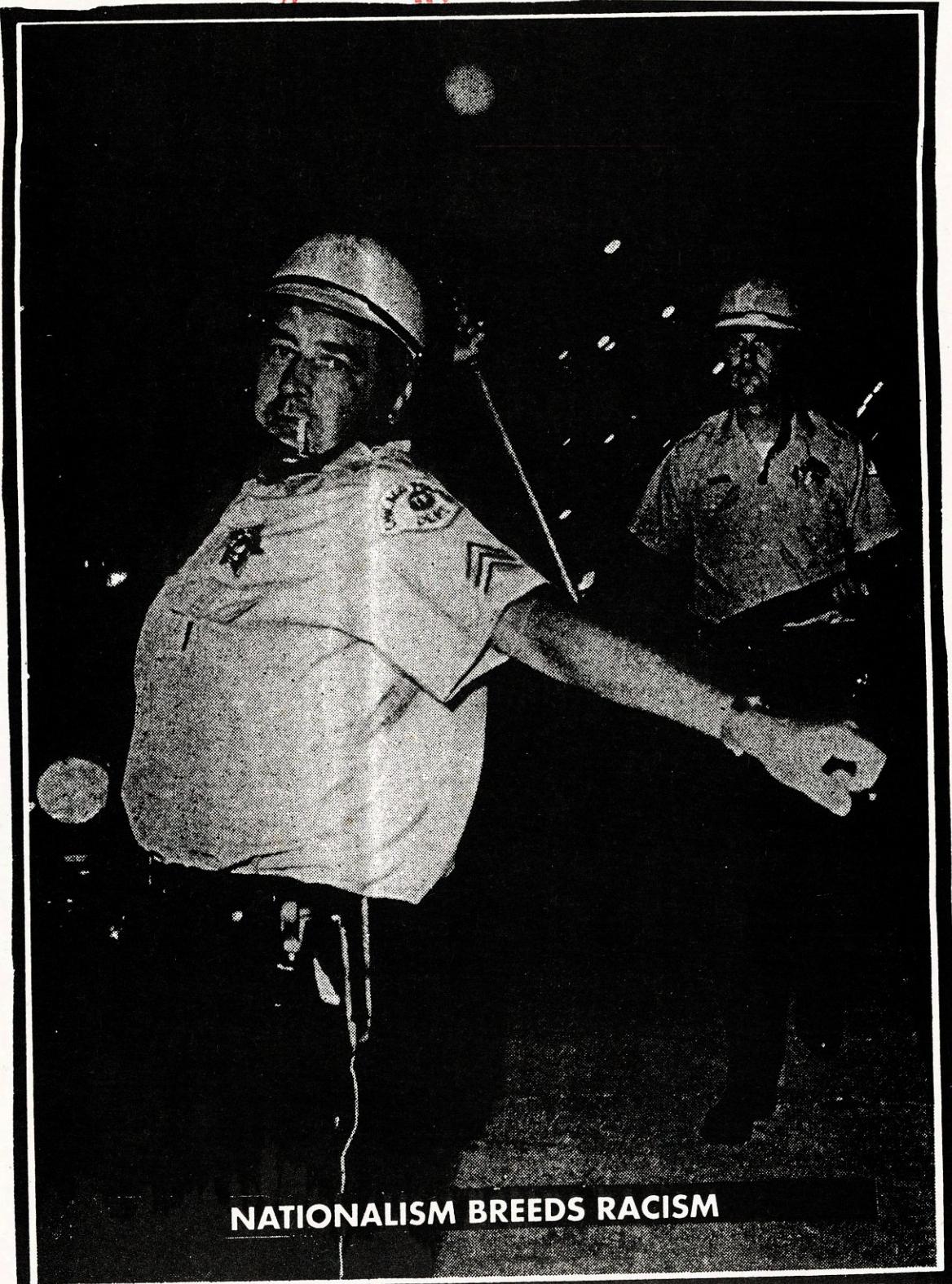


DON YO FACE II



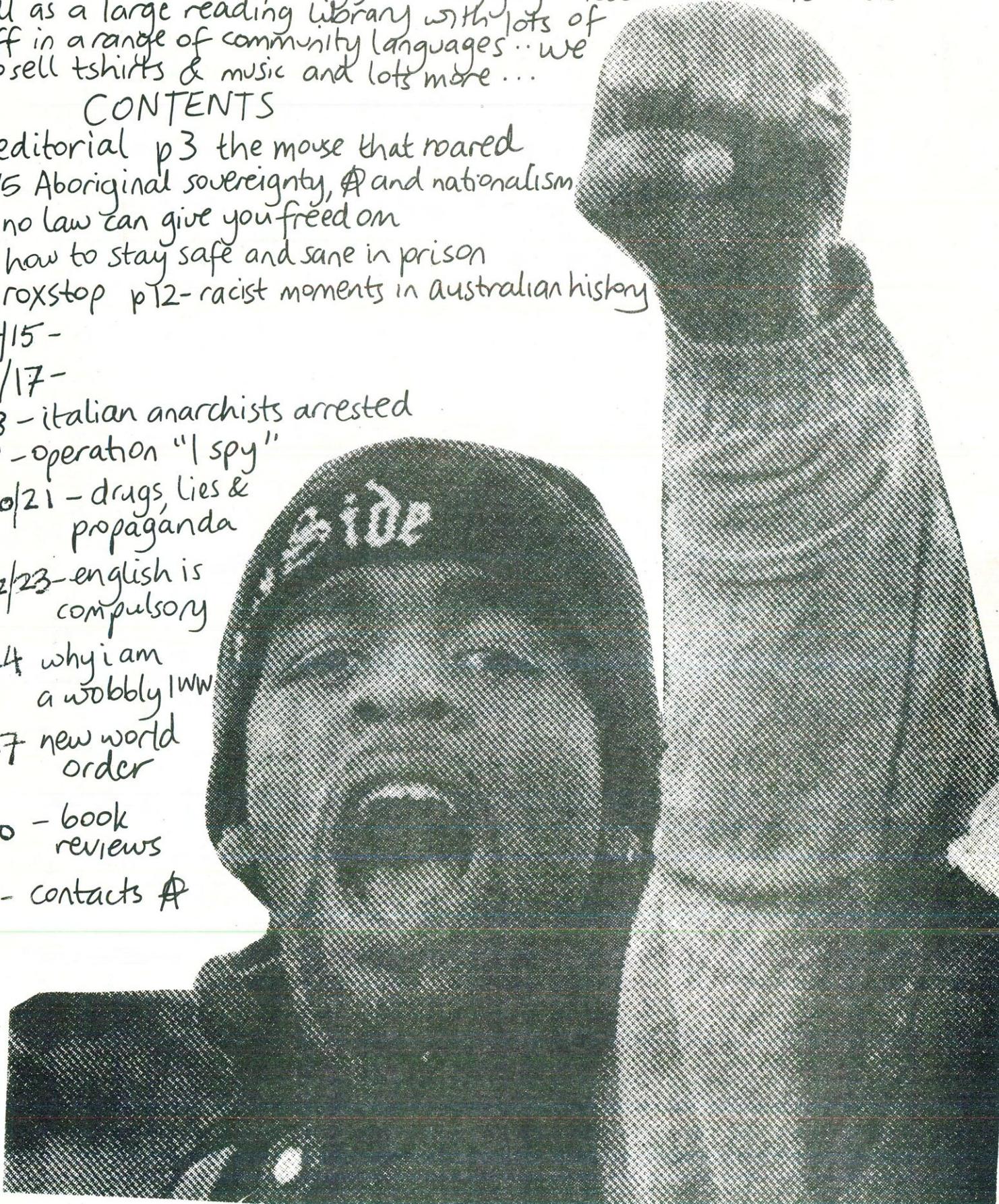
NATIONALISM BREEDS RACISM

ANARCHIST NEWS, BARRICADE BOOKS 'ZINE

hi and welcome to the second issue of IN YA FACE
This zine is put out by the Barricade books/info shop collective
but we will publish letters/articles/artwork (as long as they're not
racist, sexist or homophobic). Write to us: IN YA FACE/ PO Box 199/
EAST BRUNSWICK 3057 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA or come into the
Shop. We are at 115 SYDNEY RD. BRUNSWICK. We have many books
on anarchism, feminism, ecology, health, gay & lesbian issues etc... as
well as a large reading library with lots of
stuff in a range of community languages.. we
also sell tshirts & music and lots more ...

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THE MOUSE THAT ROARED

Obituary in memoriam John "Mouse" Wales died 5 pm
16/10/'96 Ceritas Hospice, Smelbin, Ausfailure.

For wagging school Mouse was put in a Boys Home at aged 7 where he was soon slapped around by the Authorities. He stayed in the Boys Home from thirteen to eighteen. He was then old enough for jail. He was locked up in 1968 in Long Bay Sydney.

Back on the streets he was helped by a group of anarchists. He became a member of the New South Wales Builders Labourer's Federation. He joined the squatters in Victoria Street, Kings Cross in the resistance to the 'developers' (who trendify, gentrify, yupify property for the rich). Residents were terrorised, tortured, framed up by cops and thugs; arson murdered and "disappeared". Many mates and neighbours were forced to move on but most did not forget each other. Because he gave a shit, practiced acts of everyday solidarity he lived what others only posture about. The Prisoners Action Group & Women Behind Bars struggled against the wallopers, judges, screws corrupt and brutal system; and the new technology of repression. Katingal, a white wall, white light, electronic cages zoo at Long Bay, Sydney and later the Jika Jika torture laboratory at Pentridge, Melbourne which burned down killing 5 cons. Mouse was also active in campaigns to free Tim Anderson (twice framed up by the NSW cops) & Bill O'Meally (wrongly did 27 years for killing a cop) and justice for those raped & tortured in custody or murdered in police shootings.

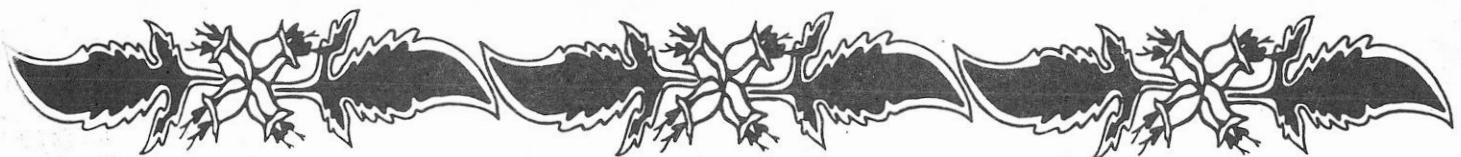
The weekly Doing Time Show 6 pm Mondays on radio 3CR (855am) in Smelbin was one voice speaking out against the silence about jail and psyche dirty deeds. A prisoners music request show was trialed on and off over the years too. Mouse got banned one time for playing Skyhooks Why Don't You All Get Fucked! song and using the common jail culture "foul language" on air.

After much harassment Mouse and family moved to Smelbin where he wage slaved as a cleaner, then became a government hostage on the unwaged "benefits" battling Housing Commission, Social (in)Security and Child Welfare bureaucrats to stop evictions, being cut off, and having their sons taken away by the benevolent State. Along with other locals they defended the Easey Street Collingwood Community Health Centre which would otherwise be closed.

A joking bloke he enjoyed good company, black tea with too much sugar, a smoke and a good video or sci-fi book he was the anarchist backbone of many unmentioned struggles like squatting and anti-fascism in Smelbin too.

He advised and assisted the makers of the film Ghosts of the Civil Dead and many other writers, broadcasters and trouble making projects.

There is so much more that could be said,
but the details are gone with the dead.
So while the rest of us hang on our ride,
down life's rusty razor blade slide.
It is good to recall, hear me roar to you all
He caused the bosses of our misery,
some strife and still had a ball!
You are missed mate!



Aboriginal sovereignty, anarchism and the nationalist question

nation-a federation of tribes (as American Indians) or territorial division containing a body of people of one or more nationalities

nationalism-devotion to national interests, unity and independence, especially of one nation above all others

If we go by the above definition, a nation could mean anything from a particular state or zone within a country to being an entire country or even continent. Nationalism is a phenomena which can mean different things to different people. It can be revolutionary or turn reactionary. In many instances, the rise of nationalism can lead to fascism. The national liberation struggle, for instance, by the people of East Timor or Bougainville, is not to my knowledge, a fascist uprising. It is very much so revolutionary as it encompasses the struggle for equal land distribution and freedom from tyranny. The Croatia/Yugoslavia civil war, on the other hand, is not to my knowledge revolutionary or anarchist. In fact, Croatians and Yugoslavians seem hell bent on ethnic cleansing and national identity. A waste of human life over religion and/or a piece of cloth.

The capitalist as well as state socialist systems are only too willing to support nationalistic uprisings. Why? Because it is good for business. War means profit. Remember the Iran/Iraq conflict in the 80's. Which side did Reagan support with military goods? Both. Which brings me to my next point. A national uprising is doomed to tyranny if it does not encompass basic libertarian tendencies such as abolition of the ruling class and government. A marxist generally, will differ bitterly with an anarchist on these important issues. For marxists believe in transitions. They allow the governmental structures to remain intact after successful civil uprisings. And then, over time, the privileged

party hierarchy will just dismantle the power structure and step down to join the happy masses in a free, egalitarian, classless society free from tyranny. If only freedom was as simple as Karl Marx's ten point platform. So where should I stand, as an anarchist, in the nationalism debate? The answer is simple. I'd be fucken confused. No, serious. Before we, as serious revolutionaries, can stand up and make theories about nationalism, we'd be better off taking each struggle as it arrives. Let the marxists follow national causes blindly like sheep. If a struggle is libertarian in nature then it deserves our support. If it is racist, reactionary, lacks working class control, or is in the interests of the rich, then it is not worth the trouble. Unless of course, you get off on flogging a dead horse to carry your wagon.

Finally, I would like to touch on a national liberation struggle close to home. God forbid! Australia's OK mate! Is it? Have you forgotten that we are standing on Aboriginal land? What better way to support our brothers and sisters in arms overseas than to clean up our own shit on our side of the fence.

Aboriginal people in Australia have never forfeited their sovereignty. The only way land or use of it was granted to 'us' was through brutal force, trickery and coercion. Hardly the sort of methods that would hold in a court of law or would they? Before we even bother getting into debates over the Zapatistas or East Timor issue, we'd be better off supporting Aboriginal sovereignty. I know it's hard. That means handing over huge tracts of land to clans/tribes. That means entering into direct negotiations with aboriginal spokespeople (elders) when we, the colonisers, decide to mine, log, clearfell, or generally plunder aboriginal land. As it stands now, we waltz into their sacred sites, do bodgy environment impact statements, screw the land, then leave it. No permission, no compensation.

Of course, the racists and media would get all wound up over this little number. "But they can't just throw me out of my own home?" lets get the facts straight. The majority of the land in this country is either leased by the government or is crown land. ie. state/national parks, cow pastures, mining land, forests etc. Your 20 acre farm or suburban house is your property. I support your right to your home. Keep it!

But as for the wilderness that Aboriginal people need for their survival and cultural identity, I think it's time to give it back. What's so hard about that? We give state parks over to the government to manage and what do they do? Sell parts of or lease it to mining companies! What's so hard about handing it over to its original inhabitants? I'm sure Aboriginal people will take care of it. Fuck, they live on it.

This essay was not a blueprint in achieving Aboriginal sovereignty. I'm not an aborigine anyway. This essay, instead, is merely exposing an issue that we, as revolutionaries will have to tackle if we are to get anywhere in combatting colonialism and racism. Anything less than acknowledgement of Aboriginal sovereignty and then acting on supporting it is cultural genocide. Ask yourself. Are you a racist? As for strategies. If you think all that non violence and "Mabo" courtroom smokescreen shit is gonna change anything, then I'm happy for you. but I know only one way of supporting land rights. That's with a gun pointed at the rich.

FUCK GREECE & FUCK MACEDONIA

LEON TROTSKY (Tune: Mickey Mouse)

Who's the leader of the clique
Where factions never die
L-E-O N-T-R O-T-S-K-Y
Leon Trotsky
(Remember Kronstadt)
Leon Trotsky
(And the Ukraine)
Forever hold your ice-picks
High! High! High!
Now's the time to power climb
Through the bureaucrac-i
L-E-O N-T-R O-T-S-K-Y.

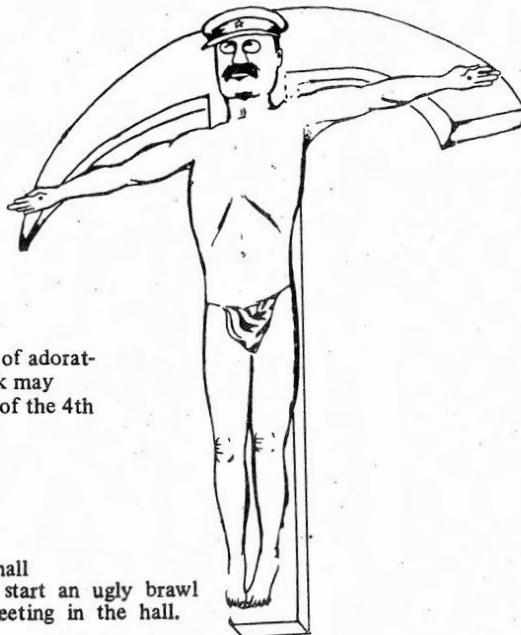
As the cross has become a symbol of adoration for the Christian so the ice-pick may become reverent for the followers of the 4th Internationals founder.

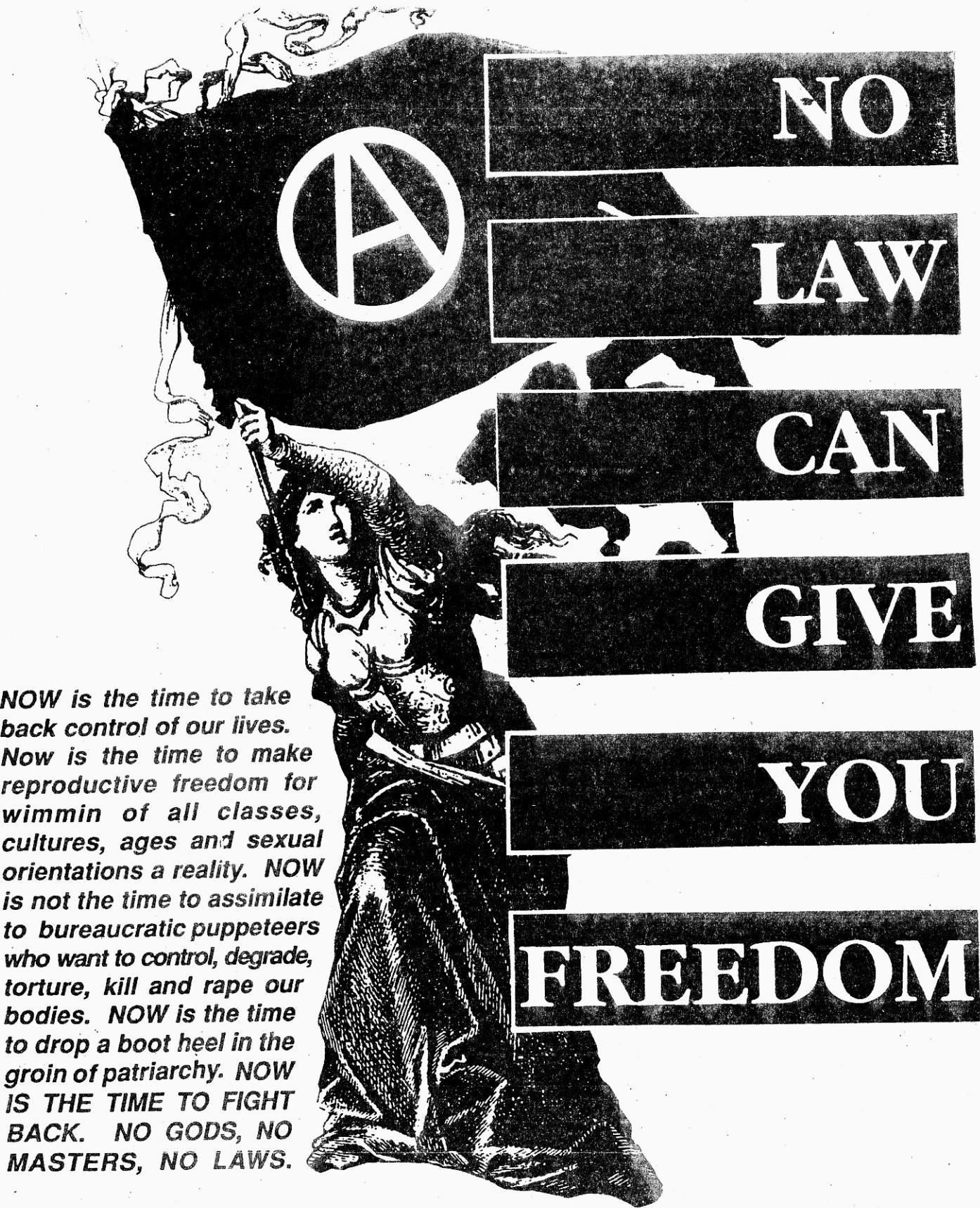
TROT FACTION (Tune: Ten Green Bottles)

One trot faction meeting in a hall
One trot faction meeting in a hall
And if one trot faction should start an ugly brawl
There'd be two trot factions meeting in the hall.

Two trot factions meetin in the hall
Two trot factions meeting in the hall
And if two trot factions should start an ugly brawl
There'd be three trot factions meeting in the hall,

REPEAT UNTIL SICK





NOW is the time to take back control of our lives. Now is the time to make reproductive freedom for wimmin of all classes, cultures, ages and sexual orientations a reality. NOW is not the time to assimilate to bureaucratic puppeteers who want to control, degrade, torture, kill and rape our bodies. NOW is the time to drop a boot heel in the groin of patriarchy. NOW IS THE TIME TO FIGHT BACK. NO GODS, NO MASTERS, NO LAWS.



ALL THE ARMS WE NEED



ALL THE ARMS WE NEED



ALL THE ARMS WE NEED

HOW TO STAY SAFE AND

SANE IN AN INSANE

ENVIRONMENT

by ben alterman



When I was first asked to write this it was meant to be just a guide on how to preserve your sanity when in prison. However I have since decided to include a few brief hints on how to stay safe as well as sane in here as a person's physical safety is of paramount importance in these places, and also has a strong bearing on how you cope with your incarceration psychologically.

So, your an anarchist/activist/whatever and your in prison for the first time. You ARE initially going to notice that you don't fit in, that's not necessarily a bad thing, generally if you do find yourself fitting in straight away then you are either quick at adapting (that can happen) or you are beyond any help that this article can provide.

Now if you do find that you don't fit in straight away then you will have to be a little careful. A lot of the people inside haven't had much of a life beyond drugs, alcohol and violence and as such are not familiar with Anarchists/Activist type people and will probably hold beliefs quite contrary to your own. So that coupled with basic ignorance could lead to some problems if you're not careful (the basic equation of Ignorance=fear=violence). That being said you will find, as in all societies, some people who might not necessarily accept or understand your beliefs but will at least understand where you are coming from. And these sort of people can quite often become allies if not friends, which is a definite plus in a prison environment.

There are two types of prisoners that it doesn't pay to get too involved with straight away, those are the drug offender/young offender types. Now I know that I might alienate some people by saying that but this is supposed to be a practical guide to staying safe and sane in these chaotic places. And whilst it can be reasonably argued that these kind of people are victims of this divisive class ridden society that capitalism and authoritarianism holds so dear to its heart, you cannot assume that they will show solidarity towards someone who now finds him/herself in the same situation that they are in. A lot of these people have survived on the streets or in prison by being incredibly ruthless in their dealings with people be they friend or foe. They also have a habit of reacting harshly to anyone who threatens the stability of the sexist, racist and homophobic little fantasy land that a lot of them weave around themselves in an effort to convince each other that they are the epitome of Australian manhood.

And on the preservation of sanity side of this subject I should point out that the above-mentioned kind of people are also constantly getting themselves involved in pointless little jailhouse intrigues which play right into the hands of the screws, and will drive any sane and intelligent person mad if they are daft enough to let themselves get involved. And the constant outpourings of sexist, racist and homophobic rhetoric that is part and parcel of this kind of mentality will nauseate even the most case hardened stomach.

I should however clarify what I mean by the terms drug offender and young offender.

By drug offender I don't mean the recreational drug user who only uses the less harmful drugs that a great many of us have probably indulged in at one time or another. What I am referring to are the (mostly) heroin users who have become so alienated by (what passes for) society that they have had their lives overtaken by their addiction and will step on anyone to keep themselves supplied with the stuff. Now quite often this mentality will carry on into prison where they will continue to try and walk all over people whether they are getting their drugs in or not, thus once again showing why drug user plays into the hands of the ruling class by keeping prisoners divided and strengthening the position of the screws.

When I made reference to young offenders I was referring to younger prisoners in their late teens and early twenties, some of whom have been living a cycle of abuse, neglect and crime since they were quite young. Many of these guys have been abused and neglected by either their family or the system or both, and have probably been street kids at some earlier point in their lives.

A number of those people have already developed into the drug offender type that I've already mentioned. But those that haven't can still be dangerous and quite prone to unprovoked or barely provoked acts of violence, so caution is the catchword here folks.

That being said however I must point out that some of these guys are more likely worth knowing than a lot of the drug offender category are. Once you have been in for a while you should be able to work out for yourself which of the younger prisoners are OK, and conversely the younger guys that are worth knowing generally mellow out towards newcomers once they realise that they pose no threat to them. This also works to a lesser degree with the drug-offender guys, though it is more likely to be the older drug offender type prisoners that turn out to be alright than the younger ones.



The rest of my advice about personal safety is COMMON SENSE, practise it at all times. Don't trust anyone until you have gotten to know them as well as you can, and even then a little healthy scepticism doesn't go astray. And as far as screws go you will be lucky to find a handful that you can only partially trust in your whole sentence. So its a lot easier to just distrust the lot of them, which the screws make easy to do with the way they carry on.

Okay, enough about personal safety. Now on to how to retain your sanity in this most insane of all environments (with the probable exception of parliament).

When you get locked into your cell for the first night one of the first things you will notice is that you are BORED. Now I'm not talking about the run of the mill everyday boredom you experience on the outside, like waiting for a bus that seemingly never comes, or waiting for the day when the police will pass the time of day with members of the working class while locking up capitalists and politicians for destroying the environment and victimising workers. No this boredom is like nothing you will have experienced before, and it can be enough to drive some people mad.

When I was in prison in NSW I saw one person kill himself and another one attempt to do so because the poor fellows couldn't handle the idea of being locked in a tiny 12 foot by 7 foot cell with nothing to look forward to but mind numbing boredom for seventeen hours of the day for several years.,

In a prison like Pentridge you get locked in your cell between the hours of 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon and about 8 o'clock the next morning. For the past six years or so then Victorian Office of Corrections has actually supplied television sets in every prison cell in Victorian prisons. And while this goes some way to alleviating the boredom of prison life, a person can only watch so much of the bullshit that passes for entertainment on TV (after all, who really cares about the traumatic lives of "Melrose Place's" yuppie scum?), and while SBS and the ABC and Channel 31 do screen some shows that are worth watching, they certainly don't fill eight hours of every night.

So unless you want to turn your brain to mush by watching too much telly you have to find an alternative activity. Reading is everyone's obvious first choice. And I've got to say that I've read more in my time in prison than in the rest of my entire life. However you will not find much worth reading in what passes for prison libraries so you will need to have reading material sent in from the outside.

The good people of the Anarchist Black Cross have been exceptionally helpful towards me in that regard and have sent me copious quantities of books, pamphlets, newspapers and zines, which has certainly made my life all the more bearable (thanks comrades!)

A good thing for people on the outside to remember is that if they hear of someone having only just gone to prison then they should endeavour to get hold of their address and send them some reading material as soon as possible and also try and visit them at your earliest convenience, as the period immediately after a person's arrest can be the most stressful. On top of that there is the unfortunate fact that reception prisons traditionally have the worst library facilities in all prison systems and tend to have longer periods of lock down than other prisons (especially Melbourne's metropolitan reception prison).

However even reading can become a little tedious after a while so you have to find some other activities to keep yourself from going mad. Unfortunately though there aren't many other options, if you are unfortunate enough to find yourself in a two-person cell then you can always converse with your cellmate, provided that he's a good conversationalist. But after a time you may notice that you are feeling a little claustrophobic and want to pretend that he isn't there. So your only other option is to write. Writing letters can pass the time and be somewhat therapeutic, so write to as many people as you can.

Somebody recently suggested to me that writing pieces like this is a good way to keep yourself from going insane, and of course he is quite right. Some of you that are reading this may be aware that I have written a few other articles whilst serving this prison sentence. And its no coincidence that I started writing these articles when I was first being harrassed by the management of Loddon Prison, which incidentally was in the first month I was there.

Writing those articles served the purpose of filling in time and giving me a feeling that I was still finding a way to combat the system that was going its level best to grind me down. So I heartily recommend that anyone finding themselves in the same situation do the same thing as there are plenty of subjects to write about and quite frankly if I can do it theny anyone bloody well can. One thing you have to watch out for is the all prevading lethargy that prison can instill in the best of people which often makes the idea of embarking on such a writing project seem too bug too undertake. However once you get started its quite esasy, and its even easier when someone gives you a copy deadline to meet (Hi George!)

However its not just the boring nights that can try your sanity. They days, as short as they are in these places, can also be nerve wracking to some degree. If it isn't the pre-pubescent carry-on of some of your fellow prisoners that drives you mad, then it will be the infuriating bullshit that you have to put up with from the prison officers and governors. In fact its usually the latter that causes the most problems.

If the prison authorities find out about your political beliefs than you could well be in for a rough ride. Particularly at the country prisons where the prison officers and governors have a tendency for somewhat fascistic attitudes and behaviour.

The staff and management of some of these country prisons have a particular liking for disobeying official office of corrections guidelines and making up their own rules as they go along. One of their tricks is to try and deny politically orientated prisoners the right to access to political publications. Well be advised people, they have absolutely NO right to do this. They may (and indeed have) try to justify the withholding of such publications on the grounds that they could be 'hazardous to the good order and management of the prison', but such a justification is still unadulterated bullshit.

Now I daresay that a good few of you readers have heard about the hunger strikes that I conducted in February and September of 1996. These actions were a result of the management of Loddon Prison deciding to withhold a number of political publications in what was transparently a payback action in retaliation for some articles that I had written about Loddon Prison and prisons in general (apparently these articles contained too much truth for their taste)

These hunger strikes did not spontaneously commence as soon as I found out about the withholding of the publications in question. In both cases I went through the usual bureaucratic channels of official protests/complaints, unfortunately though outfits like the State Ombudsman office really only exist nowadays to give the impression to the general public that there are avenues of complaint. When in reality the Ombudsmans office has neither the power nor inclination to take any concrete action on most prisoners complaints, even less so when the question of corruption within the prison service is posed (hierachic bureaucrats looking out for each other). In fact the only time the state Ombudsman makes a pro-prisoner decision is if it's only a small matter that won't get any of his fellow bureaucrats into trouble or if the decision has already been make by some functionary within the office of corrections (as in the case of my last-hunger strike).

No, in fact I didn't start either of these hunger strikes until I had gotten so fed up with the wall of silence surrounding my complaints that I was either going to go stark raving mad, or have to take some form of action. Now there is not a lot you can do along this line in a prison. You can wither lash out at people or property, which is just what the screws want as they are programmed to deal with such activity, or you can partake in a bit of dietary direct action.

The beauty of such peaceful protests is that most prison officers/governors don't have the faintest idea how to deal with it as their mentality is geared more towards dealing with loud and violent types of protests. So once you get past the first fourteen days, during which it is official office of corrections policy to ignore the hunger strike, you should start getting some action on your complaint. And if your complaint is about something that the prison service has some control over then you should get something resembling what you orginally demanded, particularly if you have the help of people on the outside who are willing to campaign and publicise on your behalf (as the kind of bureaucrats responsible for these places don't like their thin veneer of respectability being exposed for what it is)

In mentioning those hunger strikes I wasn't trying to say that they should be a necessary part of a person's prison sentence. Quite frankly I believe that if you can do your sentence pretty quietly then that's the way you should do it, you are much better off doing your time safely without putting your life in danger and taking the risk of going more time, then you can wait until you are outside where you can do a much better job of trying to change the world. All I was saying was that a person is better off taking this course of action than letting all that anger build up inside of them, as that is one of the many things that can drive you mad in prison. And who knows?, you may well do some good in the process.

One last hint about preserving your sanity in these places is the use of humour. Humour has been used by people facing adversity for ages, so there is no reason why it should be any different in prison. Different people have different ideas about humour. My personal preference comes in the shape of being an irreverent shit stirrer towards the prison authorities.

Prisons, being the chaotic places that they are, give people plenty of opportunity to be shit-stirrers. And over the years I have gotten myself into all manner of strife doing just that, you just have to make sure you don't get yourself into too much trouble by going too far. One example of such activists was my telling my unit manager in Loddon Prison that I started writing those articles criticising the prison system as he had led me to believe that I wouldn't be allowed to have any political literature sent in to me so I figured that I should start my own (that remark left the unit manager red faced and speechless and left me with a silly grin on my face for most of the afternoon), another example occurred one night when I was so bored I grabbed a red pen and wrote a little message to the prison censors on the top of about a dozen of my writing pad which said something along the lines that "the reading of anything written by an anarchist could result in the onset of a humanitarian nature which is not conducive to a long and successful career in the office of corrections" (ever since that night I have been including that message on the top of just about every letter I send out of here, just to let the prison censors know that I am thinking about them)

Now I know that both of those examples may seem rather paltry with little or no amusement value to those of you on the outside, but opportunities for laughs are few and far between in these traditionally mirthless places. So it really is a case of small things amuse in small environments (to warp a phrase). And unfortunately any particular funny examples of either myself or some of my fellow prisoners taking the mickey out of the fools that run those places would be left unprinted when you consider how much attention the prison authorities pay to my articles when they come out, and the complete lack of humor they have.

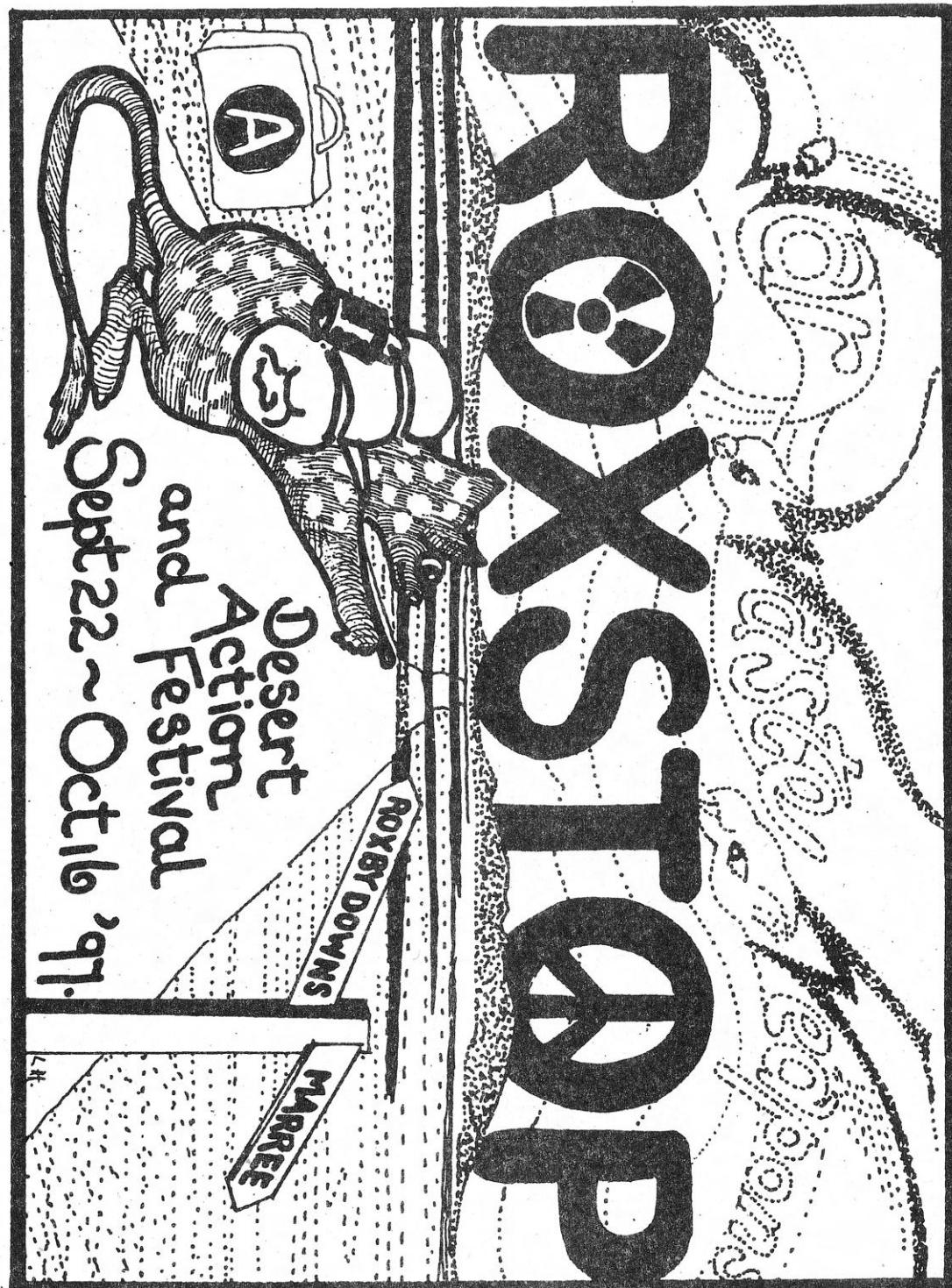
My current favourite example of shit-stirring the prison authorities occurred a few months ago when I was working on the gardening gang here in Pentridge prisons complex. One of my jobs was to go around with a lawn mower and tend to the lawns. And not being too fond of petrol driven motors on neatly clipped lawns that could be better utilised in the cultivation of vegetables, I decided to indulge in a bit of horticultural graffiti by mowing rather large @ symbols into these lawns. However ever since I carved a thirty foot wide @ symbol in the prison oval I have been kept a safe distance away from all lawn mowers.

So there you have it comrades, a laypersons rough guide to prison physical and psychological survival. This is hardly a complete guide. However prisons being the complex bureaucratic and social structures that they are, it would take a small book to encompass all that could be said on prison survival.

Next issue: how to introduce Black Cat sab practices into prison sweatshops.



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JUST SOME OF THE MANY BURIED RACIST MOMENTS IN AUSTRALIA'S UGLY HISTORY

BONEGILLA

The history of Australian immigration is not one characterised by success "rags to riches" stories, as some try to make us believe. The thousands of non British immigrants who arrived here in pre and post war years lived (and continue to live) days of misery, but also many struggles and uprisings fighting for basic human rights. One of the most significant of these uprisings occurred at Bonegilla migrant centre/concentration camp (Vic), which was finally closed down in 1971. By then, 320000 people had passed through. The place was run by ex military officers.

Following a 30 day sea journey in rotting ships which had been converted to passenger ships, many migrants were transferred to the migrant centre at Bonegilla, a former army camp, which Italian hostages from WWII had built. Many were promised a new life, prosperity, employment etc. Unfortunately, this dream did not become reality for most of these migrants who were left unemployed and in a state of misery. Then there was the change in environment, climate, food, language difficulties-all of which placed a lot of migrants under a lot of psychological stress. It is a fact that many escaped at nighttime crawling under the barbed wire. Others were shut in psychiatric institutions, and the more vulnerable ones committed suicide. They were promised a "paradise"-how ironic to be shut in an army camp/prison enclosed by barbed wire. Italian, Valentino Sartoral remembers it well, "To describe Bonegilla is hell: ten thousand of us complaining every day we want the job or repatriation. Two months of terror, there in Bonegilla, we used to live with five bob a week. It was winter: cold, humid and we went through such depression, emotional depression. You were there alone, lonely. Nobody it looked like, took care-everybody say tomorrow and tomorrow..And, I remember one in particular, who decided to end himself... We were disappointed because Australia for us young, represented a dream. It was the promised land of Australia everybody talk about, you know. I hang on, I was only eighteen. But, God, it was a disappointment, this promised land".

There were about 15000 migrants housed at Bonegilla during the first years. The women lived separately from the men. They were only allowed to meet at nighttime. They had all been accepted into the "lucky country"-the men as "workers" and the women as "housewives", regardless of whether they were doctors, teachers, tailors, engineers, nurses etc in their home countries. These were the years when Australia was in fear of the "yellow peril" and brought in thousands of white migrants from Europe alone. Of course, the British continued to get first priority (as they still do). Upon arrival, British immigrants found work immediately and settled in the major cities. They were never sent to migrant centres like Bonegilla.

RIOTS OF 1952

The first riots initiated by migrants at Bonegilla-occurred strangely enough, on the 17th and 18th of July, 1952, as did the riots of 1961. In 1952, Bonegilla was host to 15000 immigrants, most of whom were German and Italian, with the hope that they would find a more peaceful place to live, following the war. Unfortunately, this cultural change and the economic crisis of 1952 (of the 15000, only 4000 could find work), made many ask the centre's administrators why they were really brought to Australia and what their future would be like here. The responses they received were unsatisfactory, and so, they all rioted, set fire to the church, the wooden shacks in which they lived, the cinema and administration offices. 200 armed troops and five army tanks were brought in. Other migrant riots occurred in October 1952 in Sydney. Hundreds of unemployed Italians marched in the city from the migrant hostels of Villawood and Matraville.

RIOTS OF 1961

Under similar circumstances, riots broke out in July 1961. It is believed these riots started when centre authorities failed to deliver work promised to some German migrants. At this, migrants of all nationalities went into the cinema and started shouting "We want work, we want work". In seconds, migrants began throwing stones at the centre's administration offices. The riots lasted 2 days. Police forces intervened once again. 5 Italians and 6 Germans were arrested for inciting the riots and causing damages, and were later jailed awaiting trial. This sparked many international protests against the Australian government's maltreatment of immigrants. Following this, the charges were dropped and the migrants set free.

PRE WAR YEARS OF POVERTY AND HOW THEY AFFECTED THE GREEK COMMUNITY

During WWI, Greeks were criticised as being enemies, due to the German friendly stance of the Greek King, Constantine. In 1915, riots broke out in Sydney when Australian soldiers entered Greek restaurants, smashing everything in sight. In 1916, the police undertook a secret census of all Greeks to find out who they were and how many there were. Some were deported, others were imprisoned. Their 60 day schools were shut down.

Xenophobia and racism taught and cultivated by the ruling class became a lifestyle for many Anglo Australians, including unions and the working class. The main culprits were the RSL and the gutter press (esp. THE TRUTH newspaper). One of its headings read: THE DIRTY WAVE COMING FROM GREECE AND MALTA. In 1927, an Adelaide judge sentenced a Scot for stabbing another man. He declared that "such stabbings may be the tradition of Greeks, but not of the British people". In 1930, in Queensland, the Australian Workers Union banned migrant workers from the canefields (much like the scapegoating of the Chinese during the gold rush). Greeks and other Southern Europeans were classified scabs, suspicious, dirty and inferior, but also knife wielding stabbers. They were deemed responsible for all of Australia's social ills, including unemployment, poverty and misery. One could hear "Bloody Dago" everywhere. All those still living remember the insults and personal attacks very well-and in most instances, simply because they spoke a language other than english. The Greek worker organisations-Democritus (Melbourne) and Atlas (Sydney) were small and unable to resist.

KALGOORLIE, 1934

A thousand immigrants, most of whom were Greek, Italian and Yugoslav, gathered to work in the Kalgoorlie mines in 1934, used as cheap labour. Anglo Australian workers felt threatened by this. Riots known as the ANTI-DAGO riots broke out in Kalgoorlie. They started as follows. An Anglo Australian threatened an Italian with violence when the pub closed (according to the Australian tradition when two men want to sort out a problem). The Italian agreed, fought and won. The Anglo Australian fell to the ground, hit his head on concrete and died. His death, during an otherwise fair fight was enough to start one of the most barbaric attacks on otherwise innocent migrants. A crowd of hundreds of returned soldiers, marching behind the Union Jack, began assaulting migrants in the streets. For three days and nights, the racists bashed and burnt houses, shops and huts. Three people were killed and many received gun shot injuries. Finally, they kicked out the thousand immigrant workers from the villages and mines. The immigrants found refuge in the desert in temperatures of 110 F, without bread, water and protection. Only the Yugoslavs resisted a little outside the village, with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on.

The event was silenced and buried, claimed to be the work of drunkards.



The article DRUGS in the last edition of IN YA FACE was a litany of lies, conceived arguments, blatant manipulation of facts and read like a pamphlet from the Reagan\Bush 'just say no' campaign. There is no denying there is a problem with both legal and illicit drugs in the anarchist community, as there is in the non anarchist community. What is needed is a clear headed discussion, not anti (illegal) drug propaganda pushed by those who have minimal experience within drug culture. Bandying about simple cliches like 'our aim should be a drug free society...' may impress the Salvation Army and some St Kilda rd advertising executives but it shows a complete lack of understanding of the history of drugs within a broad based cultural framework. I will outline the factual errors contained in the DRUGS article then offer an alternative perspective on the current models of drug use\abuse.

The author of DRUGS offers us the failures of drug programs instigated in Sweden, England, and the Netherlands as evidence that legislation doesn't work. Heroin was legalised more recently in the English area of Merseyside (1980's) and remained legal for five years. The crime rate dropped 80%, overdoses decreased by 90%, all in all it was a success, The program ceased because funding was withdrawn by the Tory government. Merseyside had a council which instigated and ran the program. The legislation of heroin in the Netherlands has worked for the resident users of Amsterdam. The crime associated with drugs has been shown to be created by outsiders who come to Amsterdam thinking, like the author, that the streets are paved with pink rocks, only to find they have to buy their drugs and that (hard) drugs for non-residents are as expensive as they are in most of Europe. Thee drug tourist therefore commits crime to score. This problem is one then that exists because the Netherlands is isolated in its drug reforms, thereby conferring upon it a mythological status which hordes of drug crazed tourists fleeing the repressive drug laws of their own country.

The author drags in Professor Murray Alper, a professional at Cambridge University and head of the English

League Of Health Services and gives us some snappy quote the man said at an international conference, as if this means to prove something. BIG FUCKIN DEAL, are we meant to roll over because of this blatant appeal to an authority, who cares what he said. Anyway, Professor David Pennington came out in support of drug decriminalisation and reform. Do we discount his view point because he's only Australian and head of Melbourne Uni, unlike Alper who comes from the esteemed Cambridge, let's all kow tow to the crown! As for the Netherlands being a Mecca for drugs and sex, I suggest Thailand, India, and Vietnam to name but a few countries, are more like a Mecca for sex and drugs. The notion of the Netherlands as a sex and drugs mecca is Eurocentric and is irrelevant to a discussion on drugs within an Australian context.

The author then goes on to tell us that the low socio-economic disadvantaged such as the unemployed, the homeless and young are the most vulnerable to take drugs. BULLSHIT. Almost everyone takes drugs. Doctors,nurses,lawyers, homemakers, lecturers, all take a plethora of both legal and illegal drugs. The lower socio-economic class may appear to take more drugs because of their lower socio-economic status. They take them on the streets because they cant afford housing, unlike the drug takers in the professional class of society who can afford comfortable homes and who are able to buy good, clean drugs and can afford to buy the law when necessary. We are then told ' Even when a laymen could question that cheap drugs just make it easier for these groups to obtain the drugs they couldn't afford when they were illegal ? , well blow me down with a cloud of opium smoke, wasn't that the reason behind the drug enquiry in Victoria and most attempts at drug law reform to do with the high level of crime (primarily property) associated with drug taking, obviously then drugs are affordable when they are illegal because people steal, sell themselves or deal to be able to afford them. We are then given a list of health problems associated with long term Marijuana use, and sure there are problems but they are nothing in comparison to the long term alcohol use,

or valium use,or tobacco use, or sugar use and so on. As for the limited good effects of cannabis, I'd rather get stoned than pissed anyday as the effects are far more pleasant and generally less socially destructive. And yes Cannabis is a plant as is Poison Ivy, tobaccos, eggplant, tomato, grapes and hops. The history of human culture is the history of the ingestion of plant matter.

The next foolish assertion the author makes is that decriminalisation will increase usage, a fact not backed up by statistics available from S.A. or the A.C.T where it is decriminalised. Marijuana is readily available to anyone who cares to spend ten minutes looking for it,I hardly think decriminalising it will turn thousands more people into pot heads, marijuana has already saturated our culture, legalising it will do no more than acknowledge that fact. The last paragraph of the DRUGS article is the most revealing, the author is obviously a believer in government,why they are writing for an anarchist magazine(they'd be better employed writing for Police Life or The Christian Temperance Union Newsletter) is beyond me.

'What stops many using drugs is the reality that it is illegal' The self confessed learned,benevolent and switched on governments, should seek alternatives to stem this problem'.

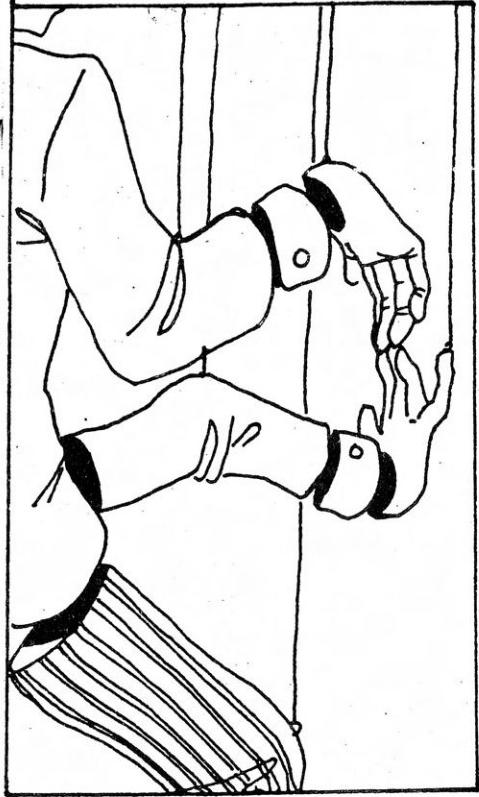
You would have to conclude that the author is in favour of a legislative body which issues laws, and therefore a body of 'people' to enforce these laws, as for switched on and benevolent governments, I always thought the notion of government was an anathema to ideas such as benevolence and being switched on,government by its nature is narrow minded and regressive.After reading the article through I would imagine that the authors idea of being switched on,benevolent and learned government is the United States which has been pursuing a program of eradication of illegal drugs for the past three decades. I suggest the author go and join the republican party where other such enlightened individuals as him/her self are to be found in abundance.



IF YOU GIVE ME \$1, I WILL WALK, MOVE, WAVE, I'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, I'LL LIVE... IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME ANYTHING, I WILL MERELY BE A SOULLESS DOLL..



YOU, WITH THE RED COAT,
YOU WIND ME UP. YOU THINK
YOU GIVE ME LIFE WITH
YOUR MONEY AND YOU LAUGH
BUT I AM ONLY A DOLL
WHO LIVES WITH YOUR
MONEY..
WE ARE ALL THE SAME

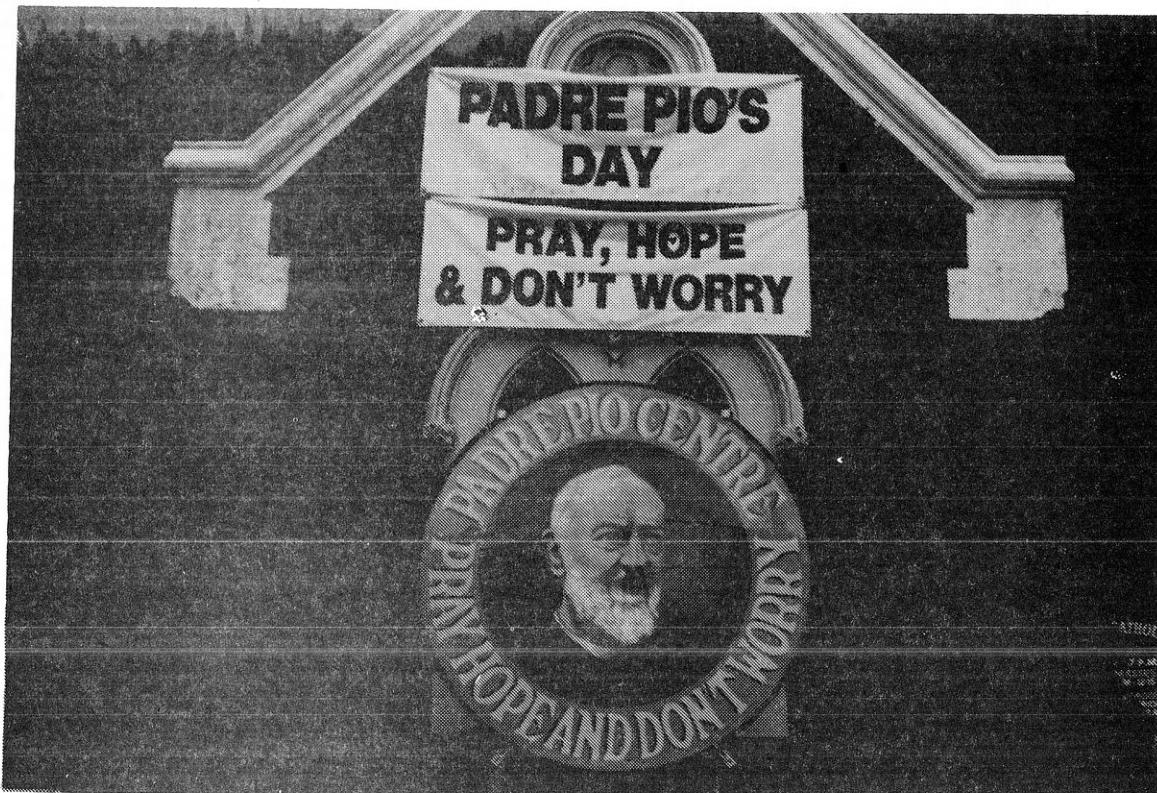


IF THEY DONT GIVE ME MONEY (AND THIS DOES HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME), I HAVE TO REMAIN STILL FOR HOURS, UNTIL THEY PUSH THE BUTTON... LETS NOT FORGET - I AM ONLY A TOY THAT LIVES WITH YOUR MONEY, WHICH EXPLOITS THE CHILD YOU ALL HAVE INSIDE YOU... I AM MERELY A SOULLESS DOLL AND I DONT SPEAK ... UNLESS THEY PAY ME TO..

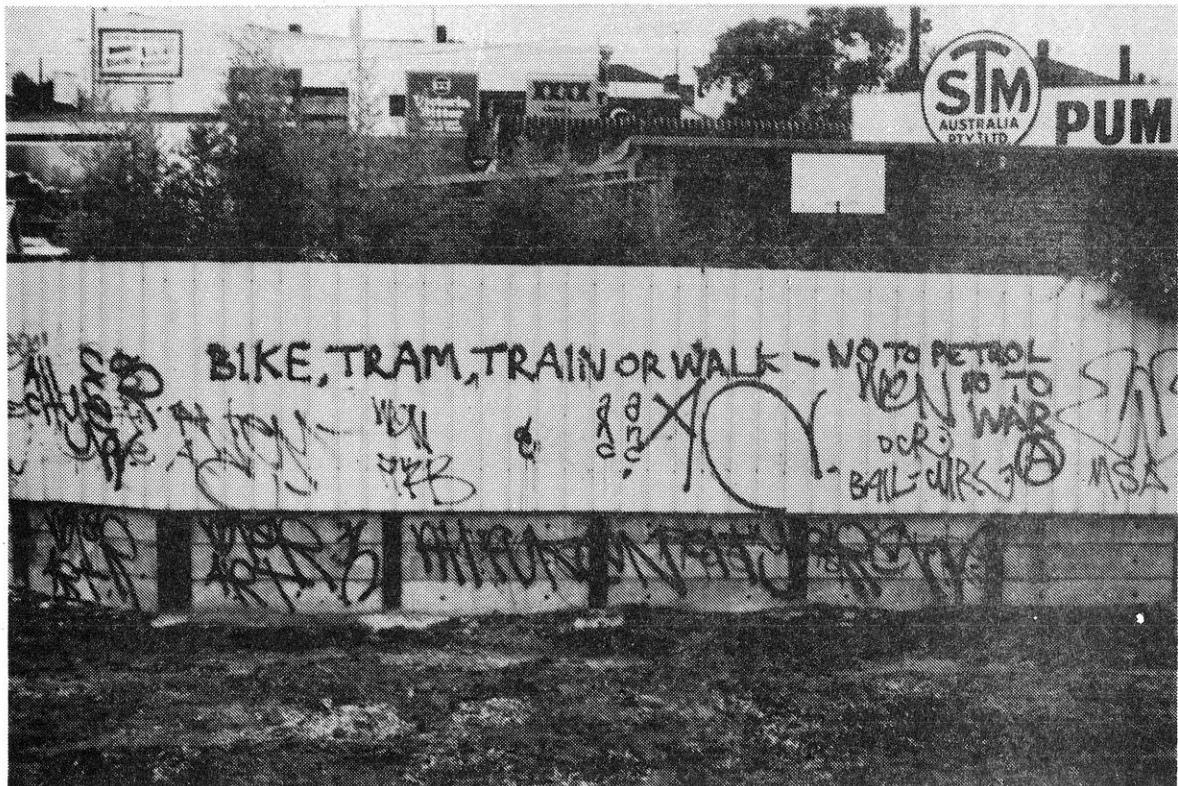




This photo was taken at the Punt Rd. entry of
the south east arterial



Wishful thinking! God will provide...?
(St. Ambrose Church, Brunswick)



This graffiti appeared next to Glen Iris train station during the Gulf War



Taken in Athens, Greece. Reads 'GENERAL STRIKE'

ITALIAN ANARCHISTS ARRESTED

On the morning of 17 September, 1996, around 300 members of the Carabinieri special squads carried out raids and arrests against anarchists across Italy. This is part of a campaign by the Roman judge Antonio Marini and prosecutors Ionta and Vigna; a campaign which seeks to prove the existence of a mythical subversive anarchist paramilitary organisation. The first wave of raids occurred in November '95 and no weapons, bankrolls, hideouts or documents were found concerning the 'gang', which also lacked a name.

The actions of Tuesday 17 September were carried out by masked and armed Carabinieri. The results were very serious: 29 arrest warrants and dozens of people officially informed to be under investigation. Some of the accused were arrested and taken to the Rebibbia Prison in Rome to await Judge Marini's pleasure; others are currently in hiding. It is still not known exactly how many or who has been arrested-the latter have been denied the right to see anyone and have not even been able to talk to their lawyers. The charges are very serious and range from subversive association to robbery, the manufacture of weapons and homicide. In practice this means accusing the anarchist movement of all the unsolved crimes of recent years without any proof being offered. An indication of the climate of persecution is the judge's statement, "I want to arrest a gang of terrorists before I retire".

Another very disturbing matter is the press release issued by the Carabinieri, which talks of a non existent subversive organisation structured on two levels: the first, hidden and illegal, is said to be protected by a more visible 'second level', ideal for "camouflaging itself in the social milieu and interacting with other subversive cells in a dangerous, criminal brotherhood". It's clear that the notion of a second level is intended to strike at all those situations of widespread sociality and solidarity (like El Paso in Turin and other occupied places throughout Italy) which have furnished and continue to furnish support to all those who will not submit to the repressive apparatuses of the State. The theorem of the 'second level' is the mechanism through which a very violent attack would be carried out against many situations of the movement in the near future.

December 1996 was the date of the preliminary hearing of the trial ruled by Judge Marini: the hearing began and was postponed to the 16th, 17th, 21st and 24th of January 1997. In the first part they will only decide if we all will be put on trial for involvement in an armed group, sabotage etc. Maybe they will decide that someone will be sentenced for other charges (many of the 21 people arrested on 17th of September are charged for bank robbery, murder, massacre etc.).

Since the 17th of September, 3 people are on bail, 4 are under house arrest, 8 are fugitives and 14 remain in jail. There are also another 39 people suspected of taking part in an organisation Marini has named ORAI (Revolutionary Anarchist Insurrectionary Organisation). This organisation does not exist!

One of the most important things to consider is that the judge and the Carabinieri forced and paid a 21 year old woman (ex girlfriend of one of the anarchists arrested in Trento) to 'confess' about the 'anarchist gang' crimes from 1985 to 1995. On the 13th of December, the court sentenced to jail 4 anarchists caught in Trento (Sep1994) for another two bank robberies without any evidence, but the declaration of this woman who claimed to also take part in the robbery, but could not remember anything about it. Then Judge Marini linked every inquiry against anarchists during the last 10 years: the bank robbery by Alfredo Bonanno and Pippo Stasi (1987), the presumed bomb attacks by Marco Camenisch etc.. The Anarchist Defense Committee are individuals taking care of the anarchist prisoners in Italy. We also broadcast in the only free radio station in Torino (Radio Black Out) and print a bulletin which we send all over Italy.

Note: The FAI (Italian Anarchist Federation) has not written a single word of solidarity towards all those arrested.

Write to:

CDA c/o El Paso,
Via Passo Buole 47, 10127
Torino, Italy

Packages or money to:

Mario Anzoino, Via Ormea 150,
10126 Torino Italy



Operation Rhubarb is proud to present

Operation I Spy

As you walk through the city there is this ever present feeling that someone is watching you. Well they probably are! The city is surrounded with video cameras which are there to ensure your safety and security like at the train stations. We question how this kind of surveillance could possibly benefit you. A video camera will not stop violence, the most that it could do is move the violence somewhere else.

Increasing surveillance is seen as the answer to society's problems. There is a belief that if people in society who are most disadvantaged are spied on that the rest of society will be better off. It is not the elite or it's security force that is being spied on but you and me. Surveillance will not solve poverty or any other issue.

One form of surveillance that is being encouraged is the setting up of phone-ins to dob in your neighbour like the Social Security phone-in. This is suppose to cure Australia's financial crisis. It has little effect on solving the financial crisis when the elite either pay very little tax or avoid paying taxes altogether. Rather than addressing the real problem it pits neighbour against neighbour.

We are symbolizing in this sculpture the masked faces that watch you. Surveillance is increasingly made to look as if it benefits you.

Frankly we have never benefited from our control being taken away from us.

**You do not have to spy
You do not have to be spied on**

DRUGS,LIES AND PROPAGANDA

Drugs are not a recent social phenomenon, drugs have been with humans ever since we first became self aware, the subsequent battle over the status of certain drugs over other drugs (illegality over legality, and therefore socially sanctioned) has been a battle over modes of operation within society through the use of drugs. Certain drugs are beneficial to the capitalist mind set and encourage human traits and behaviours which can be best exploited by the captains of industry. People interested in pursuing this point further should read "Food of the gods" by Terence McKenna, chapter 12 is especially good on this topic.

Anarchists have proved themselves more than willing to submit to a conservative agenda when it comes to looking at drug use within its community. For a 'community' which has always prided itself on being overtly critical of any information dissipated by the mainstream media or governmental organisations it has shown a distinct lack of critical analysis when it comes to (mis)information about illegal drugs. Illegal drug users, especially hard drug users have become everyone's favourite demon, no other group of people is as maligned, despised and loathed by every cross section of the community than hard drug users.

I'll be the first to admit that (legal and illegal, hard and soft) do cause problems, and yes heroin does kill, I've buried more friends than I have live ones left so that point is not lost to me. What I reject though is the notion that heroin or other hard drugs embody some mystical\mythical death force or an addictive obsession which destroys all moral boundaries. The perceived nature of heroin as evil incarnate is a socially constructed one, legislated into reality and mythologised into the understanding and a political analysis that is anarchism in its essence.

People take drugs for a number of reasons some of which are, recreational, spiritual, to repress traumatic memories, to dissolve inhibitions and to escape a reality which has little joy in it. Therefore one model will not suffice to deal with drug problems. Individual remedies are needed according to individual circumstances, that is when a problem exists. The notion of a drug problem is entirely subjective, one person's drug problem is another's recreational pursuit. By far the best way of dealing with drugs is not an issue of criminality but of health maintenance. People have always and always will take drugs, trying to prevent drug taking will only push it underground. Far better to acknowledge this and to work with the 5-10% of drug users who become drug abusers, (this includes hard drugs, the percentage of drug users who become drug abusers is similar no matter what drugs are being taken, aside from tobacco which has a 90% abuse rate). Providing clean syringes, uncut drugs at a reasonable price and a clean supportive environment for drug consumption coupled with experienced and knowledgeable drug takers acting as mentors would do more to alleviate any drug problems than overzealous policing and scare campaigns.

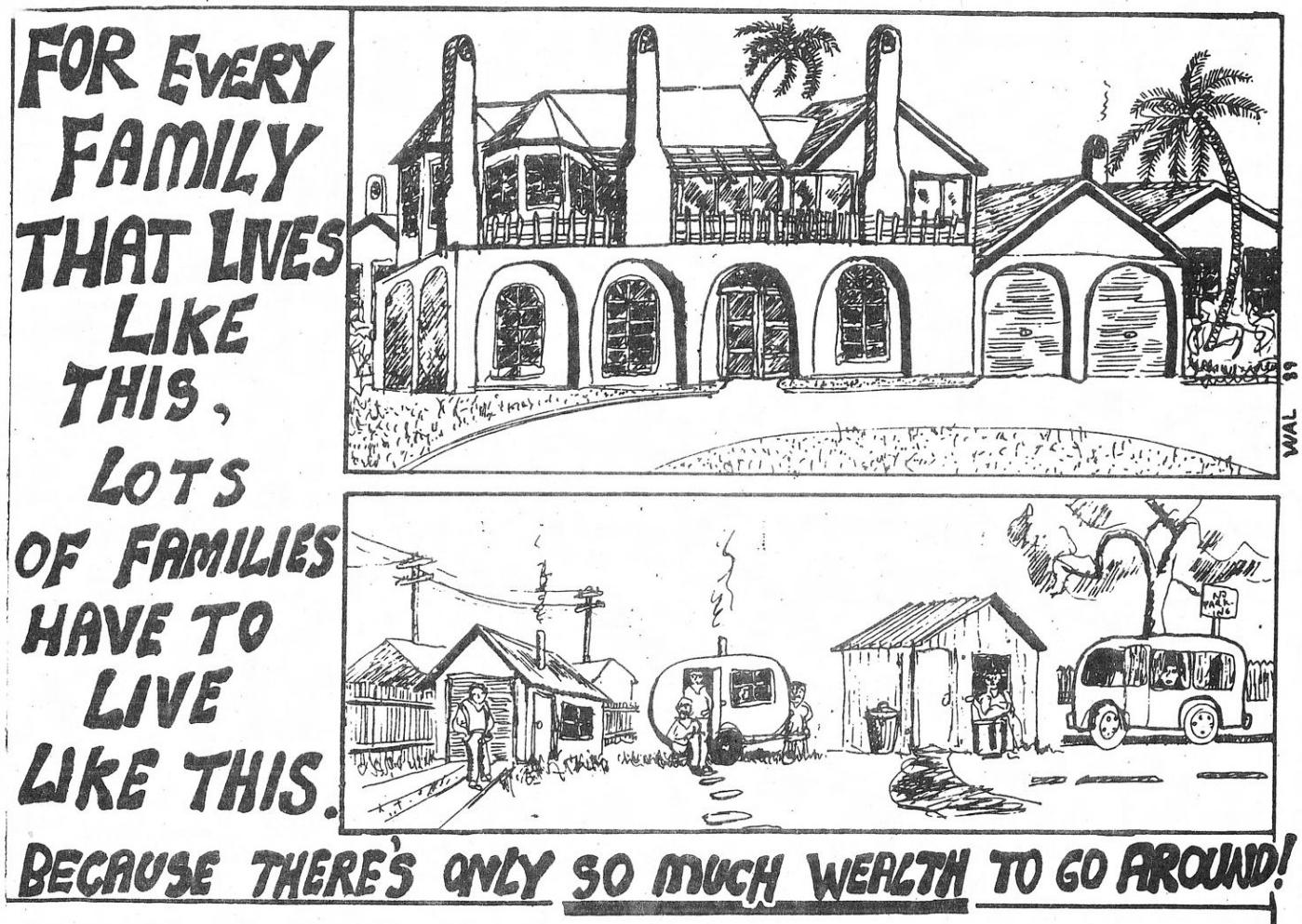
Within the anarchist community there are a number of people who have a long history with illegal drugs, including hard drugs. These people have invaluable knowledge about drugs, knowledge which could be utilised to help other people who are having drug problems. All rehabilitation programmes are church or state run. They encourage users to see no one from their past, often blame people from the past for the person's drug problem and their aim is to rehabilitate the person to be a contributing member of society, an upstanding citizen. These rehabilitation programmes see a dissenting perspective on society as a symptom of drug culture mentality and therefore an attribute which has to be expelled for rehabilitation to be seen as effective. An anarchist perspective could see a dissenting perspective on society as a given and see drug abuse as a symptom, of powerlessness within a society which needs changing but appears unchangeable. As things stand now an anarchist who has problems with illegal drugs, may be scared to voice this for fear of being made an outcast and would resort to a state\church rehabilitation programme to get help, in which case they may well be lost as a future comrade. This is not a reality which should sit with a notion of an anarchist community. Anarchism needs people to believe in it, it is too small in numbers to see people as expendable because they have a drug problem.

Of course a drug problem isn't just a person who takes drugs, as many people seem to think. A person can take drugs and do any number of things. The problem is when it is abused. Again this can be subjective opinion but there are enough drug users in the anarchist community who could recognise this and offer help to that individual if they appeared to need it. I am not suggesting for a minute that anarchists set up a drug buying cartel to ensure good clean drugs, that would be ridiculous. I think anarchists have to acknowledge that the

legal\illegal drug dichotomy is one set up by governments and big business who have vested interests in maintaining thiss dichotomy. (The attempted legislation in Canberra and the subsequent coercion against such a move, instigated by W.H.O. and the U.S.A., is a case in point).

Anarchists have to apply the same critical facilities to the perception of drugs as they do to all other forms of institutional hierarchical knowledge and information and they have to allow people their drugs of choice without judgement and most importantly they have to see that repression, through law and culture of illicit drug takers is as despotic as outlawing strikes or denying people the right to free association and assembly.

Everyone's favourite Junkie\demon\scapegoat, Hanz



Worker's Story

"You're a very good worker," said the efficiency expert schooled in the time and motion studies of Frederick Taylor, as he watched a carpenter plane a piece of wood. "Now if we can just stick a buffer on your elbow you could plane and buff the wood with the same motion".

"Yea", the carpenter responded, "and if you stick a broomstick up your arse you could take notes and sweep the floor at the same time".

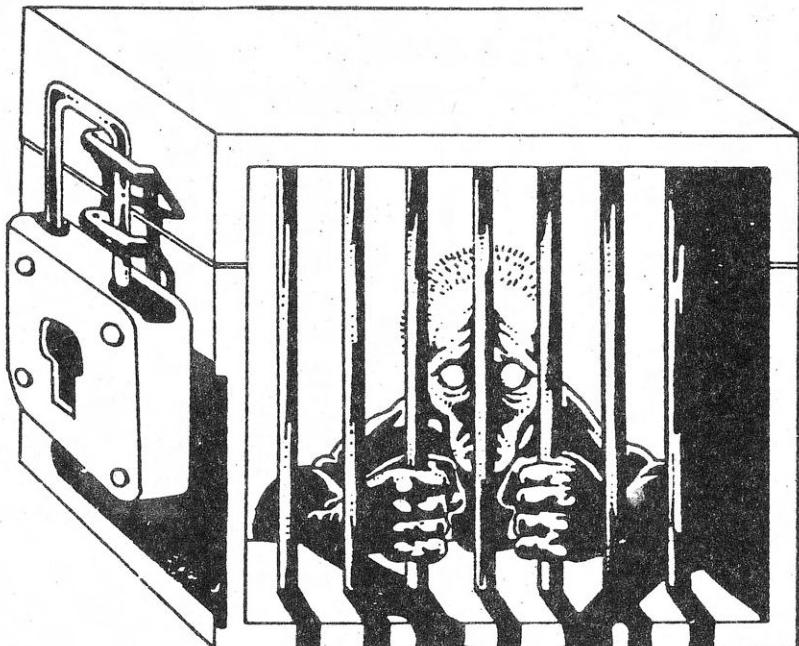
ENGLISH IS COMPULSORY

You know all this talk about Australia being such a wonderful, harmonious, multicultural society really pisses me off. That racism is long gone, dead and buried, and that it is only the work of extremist groups like National Action, that are RACIST. You get various alliances, groups forming, seeking to get rid of highly nationalist groups like this and sadly, people don't start questioning some of their own behaviour and that of society at large. Lets face it. Australia IS a racist country and we have all been affected by this, no matter how revolutionary we may deem ourselves to be. This country has a long history of genocide and murder of Aboriginal people, exploitation and cheap labour of all non British immigrants who have arrived here (who did all the shit work that Anglos refused to do). And things haven't changed. Refugees are placed in detention centres (guilty until proven innocent), look at the number of aboriginal people in our jails, their living conditions!!

I was waiting in a bank queue the other day. Two Greek women and a Turkish woman were seated next to an elderly Anglo woman. The Anglo woman's husband approached her, indicating they should leave, and what do I hear from this woman's mouth, but "They sure stink, these bloody wogs". I was shocked. All I could say was "I beg your pardon?". I was so angry-at her, at everyone else who pretended to ignore this comment and at myself for not coming up with something better, like "Have you smelt your bum lately?". I guess part of it had to do with a fear of a backlash from the other customers, that here was I insulting an old woman (80+) who just didn't know better, and was merely a product of her generation.

Of course, what really sickens you is when you hear racist comments being spoken by so called comrades and friends. Who ask you to refrain from speaking another language whilst in their presence, because they're so paranoid that you may be talking behind their back. All I can say to that is if they're so untrusting, maybe they should make the effort to learn the 'other' language. Put the responsibility back on them. Or who stereotype you, calling you a "good italian or greek girl" ie. all wog girls do as they're told, are submissive, lack minds of their own. Of course, if you challenge these types, they'll accuse you of lacking a sense of humour. These comments piss me off, cos we're not all the same, just like anglos aren't. But most importantly, why should we have to justify this to anyone, least of all our friends, whom you would think know us after all these years.

The next day I have lunch with some women comrades. One says she likes my partner but its a pity because she does not understand a single word of what he says. To which I diplomatically respond, "Well, he probably doesn't understand a word of what you say either". (I realise this does not make my message clear. It sounds like he is the one with a problem, when in reality she is). I should have said "Well maybe **you** don't try hard enough". This would put the responsibility back on her. I know this because other friends of mine understand his english perfectly well. To make matters worse, she says "But he always smiles and nods his head". Is this meant to be a compliment? How bloody insulting! This sounds just like the stereotyped view held of Asian women that they are submissive, silent and lacking a brain of their own!



I find it interesting that the few people who make comments like this tend to be Anglos who are instantly put off when hearing a "foreign" accent and are just too lazy to listen, and have the expectation (like the state and racists do) that all immigrants should learn the oppressor's language upon arriving here. How many revolutionaries have you met in Australia that have taken the effort to go out and learn another language or even some words of another language in an effort to open up dialogue with people of other cultural backgrounds? There are a few that come to mind who not only haven't made this effort but speak a thousand miles a minute and use aussie slang throughout their conversations with people who may not be that fluent in english. Of course, it can be equally insulting to hear some of these types speak LOUD (no, migrants are not deaf) or slow (like you have some sort of learning disability). And you find that even when migrants do make the effort by going to english language classes etc. these people are still not satisfied. Because they still sound "different" (ie. have an accent). What they want is for everyone to sound the same, assimilate, conform-not too different from the nazis???

So, take a look around you, challenge racism in its everyday guises (it shouldn't just be up to people from other cultural backgrounds, just like challenging sexism shouldn't be up to women alone), and most importantly,

KILL THE RACIST THAT LIVES INSIDE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US!!!

by georgia

BRING BACK CAPITAL PUNISHMENT? FOR CAPITALISTS!

**LET'S
TERMINATE
ABELES, BOND,
CONNEL, LINFOX,
MURDOCH, PACKER
OTHER RICH SCUM
HAV A CAPO BBQ
YUPPIE FUEL
EX-BOSS**

Why I am a Wobbly!

The Industrial Workers of the World is a revolutionary union. You can be a unionist and a revolutionary yet most wage-slave and unwaged people's experience of unions is that they are bureaucratic, sell out the members and the officials are always more interested in political Party careers than any revolution.

To talk about revolution may seem impossible but how much more impossible is this system of exploitation to endure for people, animals or the environment. To make a revolution we must turn the world upside down not to have a new bunch of rulers but to all live free in anarchy. Before industrial misery, before agricultural desolation there were aboriginal, indigenous societies. Here men and women gathered food and travelled as they could and spent most of their day doing what they wanted.

The diet and lifestyle we live now is not healthy. "Work" is what you do when you'd rather be doing something else. The hatred for bosses and scabs is not just that they exploit us but that they want to keep us in our place.

In late 1990s Australia we are facing an epoch where like elsewhere in the world unions, especially tame-cat ones are useless to us. The bosses want individual contracts for each of us there is no room for union pimps the institutional way capital purchases labor.

Rank and file self-organisation has erupted over the past decade despite Officials. Sabotage, direct action against scabs and Companies, battles with cops have tried to break out of the dead-end of 'business as usual' in the New World Order. As with all these battles though the Bosses have time on their side and strikers or occupiers crack up under financial and psychological strain many good activists burn out and get locked out of the industry as no unions have unemployed sections with any real decision-making power.

For my own part I was a Trammie, we fought to save conductors jobs against the then Cain-lead Victorian Labour Government and its Public Transport Corporation. We lasted 33 days but lost although we put up a good fight despite treacherous union bureaucrat Lou DiGregorio and his machine-men. At Brunswick Depot (occupied) we got more support from a squatters/students/unwaged initiated support group than we did from bus drivers or train crews who scabbed on us, and we picketed against Union dictates.

The establishment of the first European labor organisations marked a crushing defeat for humanity. Unions arose only after the early 19th century machine-breaking Luddite movement had been subdued by the English army and legal system. Amongst those sent to Australia as convicts were advocates of early unionism ie the Tolpuddle Martyrs but also Irish feinians who revolted at Castle Hill and some (rarely) went bush to attack the brutal system by robbery and assassination. Aboriginal people resisted the colonisers and still do today 'outside the unions'. In this century the 1930's fruit pickers on the NSW Vic border who struck for a "lousy little sixpence" soon began to go for greater freedoms of association. The May 1st 1946 Pilbara WA strike against the pastoralist parasites turned into a 20 year battle for freedom of movement & land. The 1960s Wattie Creek Gurindji walk-off of Lord Vestey's N.T. Cattle property became the battle to get land rights.

The 1890s strikes which culminated in Barcaldine Queensland shearers arming themselves were defeated and the 'victory' (sic) was the establishment of the ALP which then through Arbitration and Constitution could control, regulate the wage slaves for Australian capitalism. The IWW before the First World War challenged this ALP monopoly and was criminalised/made illegal for its efforts especially when like in the USA it opposed the War. The later attempts by the Communist party of Australia and later splits Stalinist/Maoist/Trotskyist have all depended upon becoming the Officials and putting the Party line/interests ahead of the workers or face expulsion. The present competing Leninist sects like ISO, DSP-Resistance, SPA, Militant, CPAm-1 spend as much time slagging off their competitors for Leadership, the one true Party than they

do organising any direct action ("adventurism") opting instead to recruit from others especially ALP campaigns community and industrial struggles.

Trade unionists today as in their origins accept to bargain over the selling price of the commodity of human labour enshrining capitalism as a permanent and dominant institution. To be accepted as junior partners in the racket of capital means accepting the rules of the rich as your own. Unions therefore act to defend 'the system' (Arbitration, Awards, Managements' 'right to manage') against independent or radical moves in the working class. Radical labour formations like the IWW went against the regime and were quickly snuffed out by Government repression (the IWW was made 'illegal') and vigilante action usually without protest by the official labour barons.

FAIR MARKET VALUE

If the bosses have their way we will all be looking at pay scales similar to those in Sri Lanka or Indonesia and other 'free trade zones' which produce so many of the commodities Australian consumers purchase cheaply (at the producers misery). The Unions offer to keep us ahead of that super-exploitation by raising the selling price of our labour which the new wave of Bosses tell us is 'pricing ourselves out of jobs'. The Unions response was to appeal for a vote for Labour Party, which had already held down wages through the Accord for a decade.

The ALP was set up when the 1890s wave of radical unionists (striking shearers, wharfies and others took direct action in solidarity with each other "outside their own industry") was crushed by Law and thuggery. The hope that electing labour Law makers lead to the Arbitration system which kept down any possibility of independent action by workers.

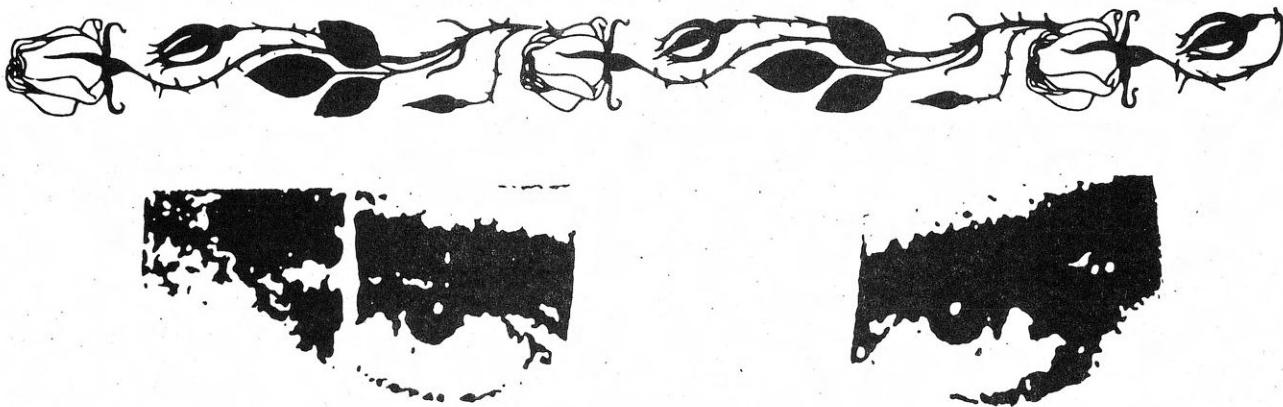
Capitalism is the only economic system humans have created in which a good crop is a curse. If you have an abundant harvest of potatoes the price falls. The same is true with the sale of human labor. If there is a lot of it, and there is, the price plummets. The current austerity measures (cuts to welfare, privatisation etc.) are part of a world wide effort to increase the rate of work and reduce the rate of pay to gain more profit for shareholders around the world.

Capital works by the carrot as well as the stick. The sector of the ruling class which had a use for unions is now seen as a burden by the new lean, mean yuppie entrepreneurs who have inherited their fathers business. The ALP and Unions which had been able to control workers anger found them an outlet by sending them off to the First, Second, Korean, Vietnam & Gulf Wars. No strike pledges were offered up by officials until external, community initiated anti-War protests began to inspire wage-slaves to disrupt the war machine. 'Local wars' like East Timor, Bouganville, West Papua occur because global corporations like the worlds largest mining company CRA-RTZ or Australia's largest BHP want local resistance to their rape of the earth crushed. The ALP and the Unions likewise have controlled all news and response with quieting strategies while Australian military does joint operations with the Indonesian and PNG regimes and Australian military suppliers arm the repression and secret police monitor the opponents of these atrocities.

Those who see union activity as class struggle to stop capitalists looting the wealth workers create and a recruiting ground for Party political outfits are Leftists who want a tight little schema for their careers. In reality rather than being a process of revolution this 'class struggle' has helped capitalism innovate its forms of domination and rationalise newer modes of production as the battle for wages stays within the political economy of the system. Gangs within capitalism fight over pieces of the fragmented world and pass on some perks to their families and followers who carry on serving the Planetary Work Machine. Wage-slavery, labour remains life's central feature and keeps the immense, centrally administrated, world-wide production/distribution grid going whatever "class" of bosses, gangsters is in power. The IWW does not strive to share the loot capitalism produces instead it seeks to eliminate the destruction of humans and nature as the basis of society. We do not want to reform the system we want to leave it.

Real struggles arise when an individual or group reach the point where they refuse to be pushed around any longer, or sit idly by while humans or the wild world are exterminated. This anger, refusal is suppressed beneath the exterior of the model citizen in 'normal times'. What starts out as 'reformist struggle' often leads activists who participate in a self-created culture of resistance to prefer making trouble better than the routine everyday life. As life becomes an adventure again networks of friends evolve and with nowhere to go but back to work so some drift on checking out the assorted 'revolutionary groups'. What I would argue is that the small tenuous, anti-authoritarian, anarchist projects need to be maintained and extended to welcome these new people. Food, work and housing cooperatives are mutual aid examples which can inspire others to not go back to the usual shit.

To keep the his-herstory of revolution alive and make a contribution now to help the future generations is a project that the IWW embraces. You can be unwaged, a student as well as yer actual wage-slave and we organise on a local as well as industrial network basis so we can cross the divisions the system keeps to isolate us. The IWW is also international we educate ourselves about the struggles of rebels around the world and help them out too and we would expect solidarity in return.



What you can do!

Question when people state something is for your safety and security and ask whose safety and security it is for.

Be aware of the increasing use of the community to provide information in order to take control away from you.

Take care when you fill out forms as to where this information is going and how it is going to be used. Ask is this information really necessary.

Refuse to participate in further disadvantaging other members of the community who may need an income above the poverty line (most benefits or allowances are well below the poverty line)



New World Order?

Some thoughts on conspiracy theories by way of a review.

Black Helicopters Over America- Strikeforce for the New World Order, Jim Keith, 1994, Illuminet Press.

Weird things have been going on in rural America for some time as mass sightings of unmarked black helicopters, cattle mutilations and secret government operations would suggest. Having read Jim Keith's work on conspiracy theories and suppressed information in journals such as Steamshovel Press, Science Fiction Eye and Paranoia I was looking forward to see how he tackled questions around these sightings and linked them to the suspension of sections of the US constitution. Unfortunately I was to discover that whilst Keith does some good work gathering together raw data his conclusions fall into the predictable, fantastic area of right wing conspiracy theories. Clearly it is stupid in the light of the Iran-Contra trials, Watergate, Shell's activities in Nigeria and COINTELPRO to ridicule all conspiracy theories , but none the less it is true that some theories are better at explaining situations than others. In the case of the "New World Order equals a UN inspired communist conspiracy to disarm Americans and usher in one world government" theory it seems to me that Keith and other right wing theorists are either very confused people or wilfully distorting the truth for their own ends. Since these theories are becoming increasingly popular amongst sections of the populace I think its important to analyse and refute such them and Keith's book (on the otherwise generally good Illuminet Press) makes a good starting point.

To begin with we should examine the sections of the book in which Keith outlines evidence of various sinister government operations. In chronological order from the early 1970s up to today Keith lists numerous reports of dark unmarked choppers buzzing ranches and hovering around missile and cattle mutilation sites. Whilst unsourced the earlier reports have a certain plausibility to them if only due to the fact that they are drawn largely from police records. Where some of the sightings get a little more dodgy is in the late 1980s and early 1990s when Keith starts pulling information primarily from Spotlight and other pro militia publications, some of which appear quite extreme in light of the earlier reports. Whilst this could reflect increasing activity it could also reflect increasing paranoia and exaggeration in the interest of propaganda.

The research section of the book gets most interesting when Keith begins to explore the expansion of police control within the US and the existence of National Emergency legislation allowing the President draconian powers. Much of the evidence cited suffers from a lack of substantiation or hails from dodgy sources, but for the most part Keith convincingly illustrates an increase in state power and the militarisation of traditional police roles. Examples of this include numerous joint police-military operations (often on the basis of drugs searches) as well as military operations based on urban combat in American towns with or without the aid of foreign troops. Keith also details the creation of special heavily armed military forces designed to take over counter revolutionary operations if the police and National Guard fail in a situation of widespread unrest. In the area of state preparations for rounding up citizens into holding camps Keith offers evidence citing Congressional papers and specific examples of legislation aimed at shutting away dissidents. Most importantly he illustrates how the US has been kept in a state of National Emergency since WW2 via a variety of Executive Orders that allow the President at any time to seize control of all communications media, transport, fuel, food and electrical sources, to form work brigades of citizens, to relocate populations and to authorise the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to take over the running of the country. Interestingly whilst citing examples of Federal authorities invoking draconian powers against Japanese Americans during WW2 and black rioters in the 1970s his focus in the 1990s is not on the widespread attacks on minority communities under the auspices of the War on Drugs or on continuing state anti immigrant deportations, but instead on the occassional harassment of right wing citizens armouries. Similarly he makes no mention of the use of US troops against Haitian and Mexican refugees and the widespread roundups and deportations during the LA riots and similar uprisings around the US in 1992. Why such crucial evidence is overlooked in favour of unsubstantiated reports of UN and Russian troops wandering the countryside becomes clear in the sections in which Keith attempts to tie the black helicopters, emergency powers and the UN all together into one great New World Order conspiracy.

Keith's theory like most of its kind takes up very real evidence of government repression and secret activities and then proceeds to distort it to fit a nationalistic paranoid world view. By Keith and many in the Patriot movements reckoning all this activity on the part of the state adds up to a push by the Fabian Socialist dominated UN to disarm and withdraw other rights of American citizens before amalgamating the US into a centralised world government where Americans will be minions of socialist and or other shadowy (dare we say Jewish?) interests. Keith even goes so far as to state that the collapse of Soviet power was probably just a ruse on the part of those sneaky commie one worlders! The evidence Keith primarily serves up in favour of these implausible theories comes in the form of a few Presidential orders to do with efficiency in UN military matters matched with unseen and unsourced "secret" UN documents and conversations overheard by militia members in which Soviet spies spill all the beans. Somehow I think he requires something a little more substantial than that.

Unfortunately Keith and his right wing friends have not only distorted the situation through their red, white and blue tinted glasses, but have also led other confused anglo-americans down a very wrong path. For those who have long suffered under any and all US dominated world orders the fact that the government is repressive, sneaky and dictatorial is hardly news. By ignoring numerous historical occurrences and embracing this kind of right wing world view Keith misses out on the fact that the US state has always attempted to destroy dissident citizens and that recent repressive legislation has continued to be aimed at the poor and minorities not at good old boy gun owners.

Nearly all the legislation Keith cites as allowing the President and FEMA emergency powers over US citizenry can be seen as responding to historical challenges from the left. Post war emergency edicts were part of the Cold War program of militarising American society and destroying any remnants of the radical labour movement and Communist Party that had not been already eliminated during similar "emergencies" during WW1 and 2. Nixon's emergency powers (which Keith shows still remain intact) were part of both official and secret operations against Black, Brown, Native American and other radical groupings as well as Nixon's liberal enemies in the Democrats and White House. Similarly the emergency legislation of Reagan's time and the preparations by FEMA to gather up trouble makers was clearly aimed at suppressing possible uprisings in the face of a proposed invasion of Nicaragua, a fact admitted to by former FEMA executive member Oliver North during sessions of the Iran Contra hearings. During the Reagan/Bush era emergency legislation and planning was primarily used to round up immigrants into holding camps, to place the homeless in easily controlled shelters and to put down the 1992 LA uprising. No real use of emergency powers has been aimed at rightwing white gun owners and police operations have only occurred when certain groups were deemed to have gotten out of control as in the case of Waco. Legislation passed in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing by Clinton (who Keith labels a Fabian Socialist!) virtually ignored internal right wing terrorism in favour of further limiting immigrant rights and increasing the US government's ability to harass its few remaining enemies abroad.

In view of the incineration of MOVE, the massacres of Black Panther and AIM members, the mass imprisonment of black youth (45% of black males under 25 are in prison) and the disarmament of radical groups and minorities via already existing gun and drugs laws the fears of paranoid gun owners seem misplaced indeed. As long as they continue in their traditional role as unofficial enforcers of the status quo they will be left alone. Indeed Keith's racist fantasies of Bloods and Crips being drafted up as government cannon fodder in the disarming of the citizenry are hilarious given that it has always been right wing white vigilantes who have been drafted in to repress struggles by slaves, black radicals and strikers and not the other way around. Indeed the actions of militias and the Wise Use movement in attacking environmentalist and Government ecologists reflect an ongoing use of right wing thugs against progressive sections of the government and populace.* Many traditional rural white middle and working class supporters of the Government are now feeling the economic squeeze of a globalised capitalist economy and are unfortunately as in the past turning to fascism, nationalism and fantastic conspiracy theories rather than linking up with those who have felt the squeeze all along. Keith's theories are ample proof enough of this tendency.

Keith's analysis of the role of the UN in this supposed crack down is also pretty wacko- this time we get the tail wagging the dog. Many right wingers lend the UN an agenda and powers way beyond its control. The UN was set up as post war talking shop through which the major world powers could pursue their interests with a humanitarian face whilst also giving smaller powers a place to harmlessly blow off steam. Whilst it is true

that the UN is increasingly taking on the administrative role of organising US backed military operations against third world nations just a few years ago the US government was ready to withdraw from it on the basis that they weren't getting enough positive results. With the collapse of communism and western powers riding high in the world the US has decided the UN does have some uses after all- primarily masqueraing US actions as those of the "world community". Case in point is the Gulf War (in which incidentally Bush used FEMA to draw up plans to incarcerate protesters if things got out of hand) in which a US military operation was thinly disguised as an international UN controlled one. The US used its financial leverage within the UN by finally paying up its outstanding dues to win over any dissenting officials and also used UN facilities to conveniently bribe and bully virtually every nation in the world to stand behind the war effort. UN troop deployments in Africa and former Yugoslavia only take place when US or European corporate interests are threatened and are largely bankrolled by such interests whilst genocide and civil wars within countries such as East Timor are left alone. This is not to say that the UN is merely a smokescreen for US activity, its role is too complex for that, but rather that like most liberal democratic institutions those who have the most power and resources it and when expedient dispense with its use. This can be clearly seen in those cases where international support could not be garnered (such as Somalia, Panama and Grenada) as the US showed no delay in overriding UN orders and deploying its own forces under its own control to restore the balance of power it desired. Such invasions however seem more legitimate with a few other token countries involved and a few blue hats so no doubt the UN will continue to be around for some time yet.

So since the fall of communism and the reintegration of the Soviet Bloc into the capitalist market we have seen a globalisation of military operations often under the auspices of the UN, but none of this activity can be shown to be aimed at bringing about one world government. Instead its goal is maintaining and extending business as usual. The training and exercising of foreign military forces within US borders fits in easily with this state of affairs. The US has always trained and armed South American death squads and dictators as well as other allies both within and without its borders (eg- the Contras in Nicaragua and Filipino "liquidation" squads). Its just that with the collapse of the Soviets it can extend and broaden such operations with little fear of any other superpower complaining and interfering. As the US government more openly crows its role as global policeman it can also more openly train those forces subservient and allied to it- who of any consequence is going to complain? The black helicopters and weapons testing also fit the standard practice of the US military and intelligence forces as since the 1930s eugenics, germ warfare, LSD and nuclear weapons have been tested on US citizens and primarily on those with the least power in society as the drugging of prisoners, conscripts and the mentally ill and the bombing of indigenous populations in the Pacific clearly shows. The shock that Keith and others express in discovering what is basically standard practice for the military industrial complex can be easily explained by their own naivete born of privilege. As American corporations move their operations into markets more easily exploited whilst pushing down the rights and value of labour and agriculture at home Keith and his compatriots are finally coming to see the real face of America, but rather than face that they are no longer useful in the eyes of capital and admit they have been mistaken all along they choose to believe some sinister new plot is recreating the world anew. Many of the people being taken in by this crap are not fascists, but ordinary people confused by the changing world around them. Hopefully it is still possible to turn their anger against the class interests that fuck us all over rather than see them continue to scapegoat immigrants and non existent shadowy conspiracies.

-IMC.

*Note- Unlike Keith and many leftists I do not view the state and government as a monolithic entity. Whilst for the most part liberal democratic governments serve corporate interests their legitimacy is drawn from the fact that these interests and power blocs do compete and have different strategies for dealing with challenges from below. In the case of the environment some sections of the ruling class have chosen to push green consumerism and the creation of a few environmental parks and controls as a cover for continuing destruction whilst others have manipulated right wing groups via disinformation and funding to wipe out even these few concessions.

BOOK REVIEWS



Not just down the drain (Friends of the Earth) \$9.90

A Melbourne based DIY handbook on water reusage produced by the water catchment collective at Friends of the Earth. This book gives you pages of handy hints on water renewal and waste reduction. Great if you are considering going bush but equally helpful for city dwellers. If there ever is a revolution, I'm sure the ideas presented in this handbook will be considered by workers and implemented by workers councils.

Live from death row (Mumia Abu Jamal) \$11.40

A collection of essays written by Black Afroamerican revolutionary, Mumia Abu Jamal. Mumia is currently on death row in American prisons. Here is his story. Most essays centre around prison life and the fascist system (democracy?) The most hard hitting essay to me was the one on crack and its devastating effects on Afroamerican youth today.

Anarchism-arguments for and against

(Albert Meltzer-AK Press) \$5.35

Finally, a clear and concise book on anarchism for your everyday run of the mill person on the street. A basic guide to anarchism with simple explanations for all those commonly asked questions such as immigration, taxation, police, money and leadership. Also interesting is the section on criticisms of anarchists by such fuckwits as marxists, social democrats, liberal democrats and fascists. The sort of book that should have wider distribution than it already has.

Directory of self help and social action groups

(Community of self help groups) \$10.00

If you thought there was nothing to do in Melbourne then think again. The directory does for social justice and self help groups what Yellow Pages does for businesses. Each group gives a brief account of their activities followed by a contact address/phone.

All the books previewed are available from Barricade Books / InfoShop. For a list of our available titles, send a stamp to
PO Box 199, East Brunswick, 3057 and we will send you a current catalogue.





ANARCHIST CONTACTS (MELBOURNE)

Anarchist Black Cross-supports and campaigns for the release of class war and anti state prisoners worldwide. P.O Box 199 East Brunswick 3057

Anarcho Syndicalist Federation-(recently formed) P.O box 199 East Brunswick 3057

Anarres Books-sell a wide range of anarchist materials by mail order and run book stalls at various events. P.O Box 150 East Brunswick 3057

Angry People-a netork of people across Australia organising working class ommunities against racism, sexism, capitalism. Publish a magazine and produce stickers, tshirts.

P.O Box 356 Brunswick 3056

Black Rose Bookshop 583A King St Newtown 2042 Sydney

Burning Times-Homocore zine with a focus on queers active in the independent music and arts scene. P.O Box 425 Clifton Hill 3068

Cantankerous-a monthly zine of anarcho feminist writing.

P.O Box 756 Brunswick Lower 3056

Compcoll-anarchist computer collective PO Box 756 Brunswick Lower 3056

Dry Wretch-punk distribution. GPO Box 1200 Hobart 7001 Tasmania

Jura Bookshop 436 Parramatta Rd Petersham 2049 Sydney tel:02 95509931

Latrobe Uni Anarchist Collective c/o SRC Latrobe University Bundoora Victoria

Libertarian Workers for a Self Managed Society-Put out a weekly news commentary, monthly anarchist mag, run the anarchist media institute etc.

P.O Box 20 Parkville 3052

McPropaganda-exposes the general evils of McDonalds (poor working conditions, shit food, eco destroyers) P.O box 199 East Brunswick 3057

Mother Earth-monthly anarcho feminist zine P.O Box 1102 Upwey 3158

Newcastle Anarchist Group PO Box 678 Hamilton 2303 NSW

No World Order-bilingual greek/english anarchist radio show covering internaational news and anti state sounds from greece. On 3CR (855 AM) Friday 10:30 pm-12 m'nite.

Also publish a zine on anarchist issues from non english speaking countries.

P.O box 199 East Brunswick 3057

NUTS/Psychiatric Survivor Network-P.O Box 279 Abbotsford 3067

Prisoners Action Group-campaigning for the rights of prisoners and the abolition of prisons.

Also do radio show on 3CR Mondays 6 pm C/O Doin Time show-3CR

P.O Box 1277 Collingwood 3066

Ratbag Infoshop-PO Box 126 Cygnet 7112 Tasmania

SCAM-anarchist printing group. P.O Box 756 Brunswick Lower 3056

Southern Black Cross Distribution-punk distribution PO Box 154

Tweed Heads 2485 NSW

SPARKS-anarcho syndicalist transport workers paper. PO Box 92 Broadway 2007 NSW

Spiral Objective-punk mail disribution. PO Box 126 Oaklands Park, 5046 South Australia

SUUWA-squatters & unemployed workers airwaves on 3CR (855 AM)

Fridays 11 am-12 midday

Trevor the fish-PO Box 356 Brunswick 3056

This list is in no way exhaustive. There is new stuff happening so keep your eyes open and write to us for a listing.

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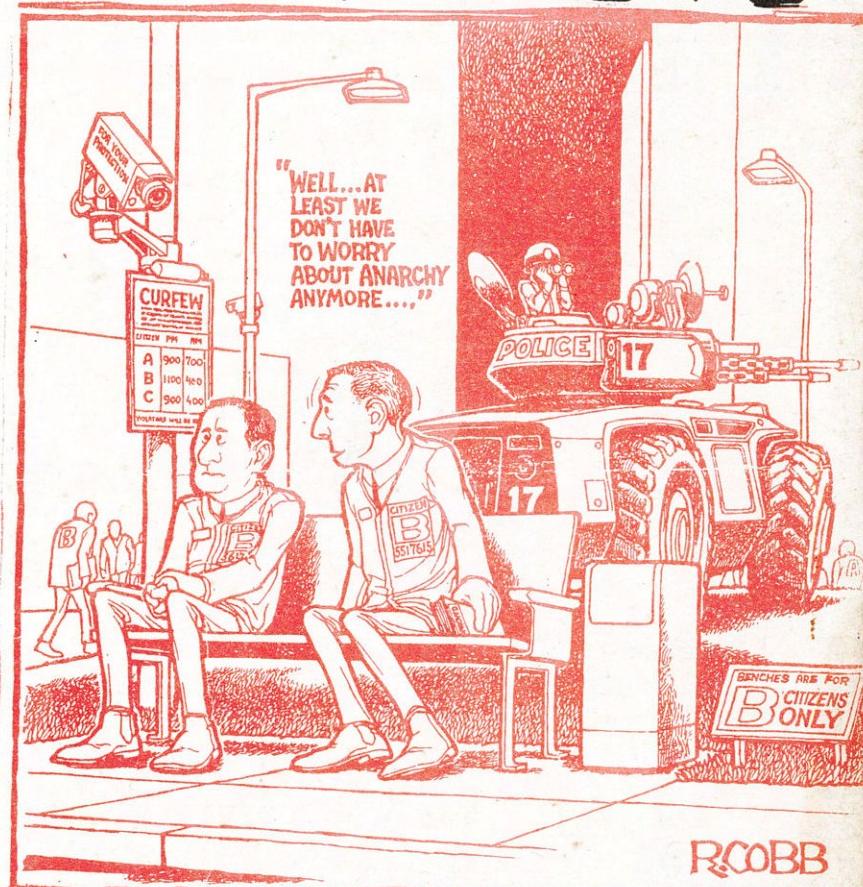
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